

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

May 20, 2010

### Administration

- Invoices totaling \$7,975.40 have been submitted to the County of Solano for reimbursement from the Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant awarded to support interpretive Great California Delta Trail signage at the Benicia State Recreation Area, Native Plant Garden. \$4,375.40 has been received to date for reimbursement to the California Native Plant Society (Grant Partner) for completed sign template development.
- Invoices totaling \$113.08 for February and March have been submitted to the California Coastal Conservancy for reimbursement from the grant awarded to support the planning of the Great California Delta Trail in Contra Costa and Solano Counties for the consultant services of Alta Planning and Design.
- Invoices totaling \$15,027.50 have been submitted to the County of Contra Costa for reimbursement for Delta Trail Planning activities in the County consistent with the committed contribution of up to \$40,000 approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- The contracts with Hart Restoration and Ducks Unlimited for implementation of the Working Landscapes Grant (awarded by the Department of Fish and Game) have been approved by the Department of General Services so billings can be initiated.
- The contract with Eisenstein Consulting has been executed to allow the National Heritage Area application process to be initiated.
- Department of Food and Agriculture's member contribution has been received. The contribution from Business, Transportation and Housing is being processed.
- Recruitment for the Executive Director Position is progressing in order to fill the position by June 30, 2010.
- Staff is continuing to comply with furlough mandates the first, second and third Fridays of each month.

### Legislation

- The Chair and Executive Director testified at the Assembly and Senate Budget Committee Hearings. A follow-up letter has been submitted per Commission direction on April 22, 2010.
- A Bill Analysis was prepared and submitted to the California Natural Resources Agency for Senate Bill 1443.

### Projects Management and Facilitation

- One-on-one interviews are being conducted by Eisenstein Consulting as the initial step of the National Heritage Area Designation process. It is anticipated the first public workshop will be held in late May.
- The Working Landscapes Program has been initiated with Commission partners Ducks Unlimited and Hart Restoration. Several ag friendly wetlands projects have been identified as pilot projects and seedlings are being planted in anticipation of Fall plantings in identified farming landscapes.
- The Economic Sustainability Plan Committee has held its first meeting which was a brainstorming session to develop focus topics for future meetings.
- The Delta Agriculture Tourism project is continuing with the formation of a Committee to develop a process in follow-up to the surveys submitted as part of the Agri-Tourism Workshop. The project co-sponsors, UCD Small Farm Program, the Commission and the Department of Food and Agriculture, have sent invitations to participants, including Delta farmers, Ducks Unlimited, County Ag Commissioners and UCD Ag Extension representatives to be on the Committee.
- The process for developing a Blue Print for the Great California Delta Trail is continuing in Contra Costa and Solano Counties with the latest deliverable being a draft Best Practices Guide. A grant application was submitted to CALTRANS in partnership with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to fund extending the process to Sacramento and Yolo Counties.
- Commission staff is continuing to participate as a member of the Delta Multi-Hazard Coordination Task Force chaired by CALEMA pursuant to the provisions of Senate Bill 27 and is providing input primarily relative to public education and outreach. A draft charter has been provided for consideration by Team member representatives. A Table Top Exercise is being developed.
- The Abandoned Vessel Discussion Group convened and facilitated by Commission staff is continuing to meet to discuss opportunities for promoting abandoned vessel removal programs in the Delta. Recycling of abandoned vessels and the development of prevention programs was a focus of the last meeting.
- The Primary Zone Study Committee conducted consultant interviews to select a consultant for preparation of the Study in follow-up to the circulation of a Request for Proposals. Douglas Environmental was selected. A contract will be executed upon securing funding support.
- The Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum co-sponsored by the Commission and the Yolo Basin Foundation is continuing to meet with the current focus on

informing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process about the resources and interconnectivity of the Bypass.

- Staff is continuing to provide input into the Long-Term Management Strategy for Dredging process as a member of the Management Team, particularly with respect to potential reuse sites.

#### Public Affairs and Outreach

- Chair of the Commission participated on a panel at the Association of California Water Agencies Conference.
- Chair of the Commission participated on a panel at the University of California Law School.
- Commissioner Piepho and the Executive Director participated on a panel relative to Delta legislation at the invitation of the Contra Costa Council.
- The Executive Director presented to a delegation from Vietnam relative to the Commission's role as a voice for local interests regarding Delta activities.
- The Executive Director presented to the Ag Leadership Class relative to Delta initiatives underway.
- The Executive Director participated in the Water Education Foundation quarterly board meeting.
- Staff attended the Water Education Foundation Suisun Marsh Tour.
- Staff provided input for Delta E-News.